



NEWS AND STORY IDEAS

For Immediate Release
January 16, 2007

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It's High Time to Travel for Tea in the Mid-Atlantic Region

These days, tea is giving coffee a run for its money. There's just something about the overall "tea experience" that makes it more than just another beverage. Maybe it is the savory sandwiches and dainty pastries or the pretty china and teacups that makes "having tea" such an enjoyable experience. Or maybe it is the tea itself. Steeped perfectly and served steaming, afternoon tea is the perfect mixture of sophistication and comfort.

Teatime is a welcoming time, and an experience that more and more travelers are adding to their itineraries. The Mid-Atlantic region, filled with charming towns, countryside and big cities alike, offers a variety of unique options for the perfect tea experience. Whether ladies are looking to add teatime to their "girlfriend getaways," or travelers are looking for a leisurely way to spend the afternoon, these restaurants, shops, inns and historic attractions are sure to delight!

Delaware

Victoria's, in the Boardwalk Plaza Hotel, offers afternoon tea in an oceanfront, Victorian setting Monday - Saturday (by reservation). Victoria's Tea features tea sandwiches and sweets, with individually brewed pots of Queen Catherine's, Rose, Jasmine, Lemon Verbena, Vanilla-Flavored Black, Decaffeinated Ceylon or a seasonal Tea of the Month. \$15 per person. *Southern Delaware Tourism, 302-856-1818, www.visitsoutherndelaware.com.*

The Victorian Lady, located in the quaint town of Milford, is the perfect spot to warm up with the finest cup of tea. They offer over 65 types of loose tea and a unique dining experience. There are hats, boas, gloves and top hats available to add to the fun! *Kent County Delaware Convention and Visitor's Bureau, 1-800-233-KENT, www.visitdover.com.*

Maryland

Escape the hustle of our fast-paced society and catch up with friends at an afternoon tea, spend time with Mom, or throw a tea party for your next special occasion at any of Maryland's 50 tea rooms and historic attractions with tea events. See detailed listings online. *Maryland Office of Tourism Development, 410-767-6329, <http://www.visitmaryland.org/pressroom/evergreenreleases/page5502.html>*

Visit the East West Tea Emporium for an informative tasting. Go traditional with afternoon tea at the 18th-century Reynolds Tavern. Relax during an elegant Tea & Fashion Show at St. Anne's Spring Festival. Revisit a time when tea started wars with tours of Historic Annapolis and the U.S. Naval Academy. *Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Conference and Visitors Bureau, 410-280-0445, www.visitannapolis.org*

The Carroll County Farm Museum serves themed teas throughout the year while Gypsy's Tea Room is housed in the historic Winchester Country Inn. Ladyfingers Tea Room offers spa and massage services and Piccadilly's Tearoom in Taneytown is next door to one of the largest "Red Hat" retail shops in Maryland. *Carroll County Office of Tourism, 1-800-272-1933, www.CarrollCountyTourism.org*

Visit La Plata to enjoy either The Royal Tea Room or Casey Jones. Casey's offers tea the second Saturday of each month and monthly special events. The Royal Tea Room features antiques and teapots. Royal Tea is served from 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m. There is even a "princess tea" complete with tiaras! *Charles County Office of Tourism, 800-766-3386, www.VisitCharlesCounty.com*

Tea enthusiasts will find several options for enjoying the art of tea while visiting Frederick County. The Inn at Buckeystown offers a whimsical Mad Hatter Tea party, complete with costumed hosts, props and hats for each guest. Cozy Restaurant offers a First Ladies Tea and tour of their Camp David Museum. *Tourism Council of Frederick County, 301-600-4050 or 800-999-3613, www.fredericktourism.org*

Hagerstown, Maryland offers tea in special settings. The Wingrove Manor is a quaint Victorian-style inn. The Inn requests a 3 day notice, and charges \$22.00 per person. Please call to inquire about items served; the typical "tea time" is 1-3 p.m. *Hagerstown-Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau, 301-791-3246, www.marylandmemories.com.*

Take time to join the Inn at Perry Cabin for high tea every afternoon. The Inn's pear green tea vodka, for example, can be mixed with tonic water, or floated on champagne or sparkling wine. While you're sipping, enjoy Pastry Chef Matt Ratcliff's tea sandwiches, cookies, and scrumptious banana-walnut bread. *The Inn at Perry Cabin, an Orient-Express Hotels' property, 308 Watkins Lane, St. Michaels, MD 410-745-2200*

Tea On The Tiber is a lovely Victorian tea room located on Main Street in historic Ellicott City. Open Tuesday through Saturday, Tea On The Tiber offers fine teas and traditional English fare. The tea room features a grand parlor, sunroom and a deck overlooking the Tiber River. *Howard County Tourism, Inc., 410-313-1900, www.visithowardcounty.com.*

Pennsylvania

In the Laurel Highlands, The Inn at Georgian Place is a lovely stop for a delightful afternoon tea, (noon-2:30 p.m. daily). Savor the perfect pot of tea, scrumptious tea sandwiches and desserts from the stately dining room or sun porch of this magnificently restored twenty-two room Georgian mansion. *Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau, 1-800-333-5661, ext. 18, www.laurelhighlands.org.*

A formal tea can be experienced at two popular Lehigh Valley, Pa. teahouses; Jessica's Tearoom in Northampton and Lavender Lace Tea Room in Emmaus. Jessica's offers traditional high tea in a Victorian-inspired setting while Lavender Lace offers a tea luncheon and special tea parties for little ladies and gentlemen. *Lehigh Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau, 610-882-9200, tracey@lehighvalleypa.org.*

The slogan of Remedy Tea Bar is "serving the hot and the cool." Tea drinkers can order rare teas, tea lattes blended with caramel or cool off on hot days with a non-alcoholic "Mar-tea-ni" cocktail, a Cosmopolitan-like creation made with passion berry iced tea, cranberry juice and lime juice. *Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corporation, 215-599-7433, www.gophila.com/pressroom.*

The Talking Teacup and Wild Violets Tea Garden offer a wide variety of teas in beautiful historic buildings. Tasteful Teas & More offers breakfast, lunch, and a full afternoon tea in an elegant ambiance. The lovely décor of Tea With an Accent includes fine china, fresh flowers and candles. *Bucks County Conference & Visitors Bureau, 215-639-0300 x231, www.bccvb.org.*

During afternoon tea (4-5 p.m. every afternoon), you'll find "Gone with the Wind" grace and elegance at Tara – A Country Inn, located in Lawrence County (approx. 90 minutes from downtown Pittsburgh). *Visit Pittsburgh, 412-281-7711, www.visitpittsburgh.org.*

Virginia

Tea is served. Enjoy pastries, scones and finger sandwiches under the magnificent Tiffany stained glass domed lobby in the Jefferson Hotel. There are special teas for teddy bear and chocolate lovers. Or choose from nearly 120 varieties of tea at Carytown Teas. *Richmond Metropolitan Convention & Visitors Bureau, 804-783-7411, www.visit.richmond.com.*

Gourmet desserts take center stage at the Boxwood Inn in Newport News, Virginia. The Inn's charming Blue Willow Tea Room offers tea (Tuesday-Friday, noon-2:00 p.m.) and tours of a beautifully restored 1896 historic structure that was once a private home, general store and the Warwick County Recorder of Deeds office. *Newport News Tourism Development Office, 757-926-1429, www.newport-news.org.*

Smithfield's premier tea shop and café, Olde World Tea Co., provides a little of everything including 55 loose teas, worldly tea ware and accessories, culinary delights and tea education. Enjoy lunch (gourmet soup, savory tart), cream tea, light tea, or high tea. The world of tea awaits you! *Smithfield & Isle of Wight Convention and Visitors Bureau, 757-357-5182, www.smithfield-virginia.com.*

Deep rooted in distinct southern flavor, the tea experience in Hampton is not to be missed! Grey Goose Tearoom offers a quaint setting, complete with homemade soups, biscuits, and desserts. Victorian Station delights its patrons with an afternoon tea ritual, offering scones and tarts on the first and second levels. *Hampton Convention & Visitor Bureau, 757/728-5328, www.hamptoncvb.com.*

The Victorian Tea Room in Manassas, offers more than 60 teas (including children's teas). In Occoquan, The Pink Bicycle Tea Room lends patrons Victorian tea hats to wear. The Coffee House of Occoquan serves light fare and live weekend music. De Rubeen's Café features specialty teas accompanying fresh baked goods. *Prince William County / Manassas Convention and Visitors Bureau, 800-432-1792, www.visitpwc.com*

The Painted Lady is the transformation of four turn-of-the-century homes into a Victorian tea room, restaurant and gift boutique. A Norfolk landmark nestled in the historic Ghent area of the city, The Painted Lady is a delightful and colorful reminder of times past. *Norfolk Convention and Visitors Bureau, 757-664-6620, www.norfolkcvb.com.*

West Virginia

West Virginia boasts the world's largest teapot *and* terrific tea rooms. The ZenClay Café is a café/studio in Morgantown. In Hurricane, Ferguson's Tea Room features teas from around the world. Shaharazade's Tea Room in Shepherdstown has tea plus belly dancers! Little girls love the children's tearoom at Miss Ashley's Tearoom in Lewisburg. *West Virginia Division of Tourism, 304-558-2288, www.wvtourism.com.*

Historic Downtown Lewisburg is home to Miss Ashley's Tearoom, a garden-inspired venue complete with its very own gift shop. Serving fine whole leaf tea by Harney & Sons, along with delectable homemade tea sandwiches and desserts, this charming tearoom is a favorite for showers, luncheons and even children's parties. *Greenbrier County Convention and Visitors Bureau, 800-833-2068, www.greenbrierwv.com.*

About the Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance

The Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance is a cohesive unit of regional tourism partners encompassing Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and Washington D.C.

The group serves travel journalists by creating a regional resource that ignores geographical boundaries. The Alliance promotes common threads and offers saleable stories to journalists about the Mid-Atlantic destination as a whole.

Learn more about our partnership at www.matpra.org.